

Appl. No. 10/626,136
Amdt. dated January 5, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 6, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A can opener for a pull top-type can, the opener comprising a body comprising a forward surface, a rear surface, and a bottom surface, at least said bottom surface being curved to define a rounded generally U-shaped heel; a tab engaging lip having a surface extending rearwardly from an upper, forward end of said heel; said lip having a length less than the diameter of a ring of a pull-top can opening tab; a starting notch at a rear end of said tab engaging lip said front surface; and a finishing notch at said front surface; said starting notch having a bottom surface below said lip surface; said starting and finishing notches being sized and shaped to receive a ring of an opening tab of a can to be opened and having a forward surface against which said tab ring can engage; said finishing notch being spaced above said starting notch.

2. (Original) The can opener of claim 1 including a handle, said body being formed at one end of said handle.

3. (Currently Amended) The can opener of claim 1 wherein said heel has a first portion defining a first radius extending from said flat surface and a second portion defining a second radius, said second radius continuing from said first radius; said first radius being greater than said second radius.

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4. (Currently Amended) The can opener of claim 1 including a port opening into said starting notch from said front surface; said surface defining a lower surface of said port.

5. (Currently Amended) The can opener of claim 4 wherein said port has a flat lower surface, said port lower surface intersects intersecting with said body front surface to define an acute angle.

6. (Original) The can opener of claim 4 wherein said port is a first port, said opener including a second port spaced above said first port; said second port opening into said finishing notch.

7. (Currently Amended) The can opener of claim 6 wherein said body includes a retaining portion which extends over said opening; said retaining portion being adapted to maintain a can lid on said opener upon removal of the can lid from its can.

8. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 7 wherein said second port defines a spiral path; said second port surfaces defining said retaining portion.

9. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 4 including a channel extending from said starting notch to said finishing notch; said can opener having only a single port.

10. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 9 wherein said finishing notch is on a forward edge of said channel.

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11. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 9 wherein said finishing notch is on a rear edge of said channel.

12. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 9 including a rebound slot extending generally rearwardly from said channel.

13. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 1 including an arm pivotally mounted to said body above said finishing notch; said arm having a downwardly extending finger; said arm being movable between a first position in which said finger engages a front edge of said notch to close said notch and a second position in which said finger is spaced above said notch front edge to open said notch.

14. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 13 wherein said arm is spring biased to its first position.

15. (Currently Amended) A can opener for a pull top-type can, the opener comprising a body comprising:

a forward surface, a rear surface, and a bottom surface, at least said bottom surface being curved to define a generally U-shaped rounded heel;

a tab engaging lip having a surface extending rearwardly from an upper, forward end of said heel;

a starting notch at a rear end of said tab engaging lip said front surface; said starting notch having a bottom surface below said lip surface and said starting

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notch being sized and shaped to receive a ring of an opening tab of a can to be opened;

a finishing notch at said front surface; said finishing notch being spaced above said starting notch; and

a retainer proximate said finishing notch; said retainer being adapted to maintain a can lid on said opener upon removal of the can lid from its can;

the curvature of the generally U-shaped heel being sized such that when a can opening tab is received in the starting notch, pivoting of the can opener about the heel will pivot the tab sufficiently to cause the tab to break the seal of the can lid and the rounded heel is sized such that when the opening tab is received in the finishing notch, pivoting of the can opener about the heel will remove the lid from the can.

16. (Original) The can opener of claim 15 including a first port in communication with said starting notch and a second port in communication with said finishing notch; said first port extending from a forward surface of said body to said starting notch; said second port extending from one of said forward surface or an upper surface of said body.

17. (Withdrawn) The can opener of claim 15 including a port extending from said forward edge of said opener body to said starting notch and a channel extending from said starting notch to said finishing notch.

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18. (Original) The can opener of claim 15 wherein said retainer is defined by a lip; said lip defining at least a part of a channel extending from said forward edge of said opener body to said finishing notch.

19. (New) The can opener of claim 15 wherein said retainer comprises a pathway extending from said finishing notch toward a surface of said body to define a port in said body surface; said port being above said finishing notch.

20. (New) The can opener of claim 19 wherein said pathway is generally J-shaped.

21. (New) The can opener of claim 20 wherein said J-shaped pathway is a generally inverted J-shaped pathway.

22. (New) The can opener of claim 1 wherein the bottom of the U-shaped heel forms a fulcrum about which the body rotates on top of the lid (1) to raise the a can opening tab when the tab is engaged in the starting notch and (2) to pry the can lid off the can when the tab is engaged in the finishing notch.